



# STATE OF CONNECTICUT



## Governor's Council for Agricultural Development INFRASTRUCTURE AND WHOLESALE MARKETS WORKING GROUP

### MINUTES OF MEETING HELD FEBRUARY 27, 2014

Connecticut Department of Agriculture  
165 Capitol Avenue, Hartford, CT 06106

#### I. CALL TO ORDER

Shelly Oechsler, working group co-chair, called the meeting to order at 10:25 a.m. In addition to co-chair Herb Holden, other working group members present were Stephen Cop (HPC Foodservice), Mariana Evica (Urban Oaks Farm), Stacia Monahan (Stone Gardens Farm), and Ann Simeone (Connecticut Department of Administrative Services).

Also present were Henry Talmage (Connecticut Farm Bureau Association) and Dean Gregory Weidemann (University of Connecticut), vice chairs, from the Governor's Council for Agricultural Development, and staff from the Connecticut Department of Agriculture.

Working group members Chris Bassette (Killam and Bassette Farmstead), Tim Cipriano (Chartwells/Farmington Public Schools Foodservice), Joe Geremia (Geremia Greenhouse), Joseph Ruffini (Northeast Produce), Chad Simoneaux (Gulf Shrimp Company), and Kathy Smith (The Farmer's Cow) were absent.

#### II. APPROVAL OF 1/8/14 MINUTES

The group reviewed draft minutes from January 8, 2014. Ann Simeone moved to approve them and Stacia Monahan seconded. There was no discussion. The group accepted the motion unanimously.

#### III. RECAP OF 1/29/14 TOWN HALL MEETING

Co-chair Oechsler reviewed the group's assignments and the input it received at the January 29, 2014, town hall meeting. A brief discussion ensued.

#### IV. DEVELOPMENT OF DRAFT DELIVERABLES

The group discussed successful processing facilities and business models. Members came to consensus that the group's suggestion(s) to the full council should be focused on providing producers with information and education on cooperative business models.

#### V. RECAP AND NEXT STEPS

Members were in agreement that refinement of the group's suggestion(s) to the full council could be done by email and that its next meeting, previously scheduled for March 20, 2014, would not be necessary.

#### VI. ADJOURNMENT

There was no further business and co-chair Oechsler adjourned meeting at 12:04 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Linda Piotrowicz  
February 28, 2014